

HCS HB 1885 -- STRUCTURED FAMILY CAREGIVING

SPONSOR: Bahr

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Administrative Oversight Committee by vote of 12 to 0.

This bill adds structured family caregiving as an agency-directed model to the MO HealthNet Program to ensure the availability of comprehensive and cost-effective choices for a MO HealthNet participant to live at home in the community of his or her choice and to receive support from a caregiver of his or her choice.

The bill specifies that the structured family caregiving waiver must include a cap of 300 participants and other items outlined in the bill.

Within 90 days of the effective date of these provisions, the Department of Social Services must, if necessary to implement the provisions of this section, apply to the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services for a structured family caregiver waiver. The department must request an effective date of not later than July 1, 2019, and must take all administrative actions necessary to ensure time and equitable availability of structured family caregiving services for any home- and community-based care participant.

This bill is similar to HCS HB 455 (2017) and HB 1753 (2016).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that structured family caregiving will allow a family member to be cared for at home by someone they know and are comfortable with and will result in a cost savings to the state. The alternative of hiring someone to come to the home is a financial hardship, and many rural citizens struggle to find an agency to come to the home; additionally the symptoms of some diseases can be made worse by a change in situation.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Bahr and Carroll Rodriguez, Alzheimers Association.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that this program will not be a cost savings to the state and this program should instead be a pilot program. It would make more sense to work from the consumer directed care model or the in home care model instead of creating a whole new program.

Testifying against the bill was the Missouri Health Care

Association and Missouri Assisted Living Association.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill reported the costs per participant per year for home and community based services, as well as the yearly costs for a patient in a nursing home.

Testifying on the bill was Elisa Pellham.